

Weekly Views



Happy Holidays!



Twenty-six members of the Gospel Echoes team visited the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF), bringing homemade cookies for offenders and staff members. Approximately 1,360 bags of cookies were distributed. They sang carols during the lunch meal while distributing the cookies. St. Nick, played by RCF Training Supervisor Nick Eblen, also visited the Rockville Correctional Facility. Nineteen families and some canines came to the facility to get pictures with Santa who had treats and presents for the children. (see photo right)



'Tis the season for giving! Staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility collected food for donation to the Putnam County Food Pantry in Greencastle, IN. A barrel of food items was delivered to the non-profit organization that has fed over 700 Greencastle residents and families and served over 62,000 meals this year. Tonya Morris, Business Accountant Manager, coordinated the facility event.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility staff brought a little Christmas joy to the children of the residents of Noble House Ministries. A Christmas tree was placed in the lobby of the facility with handmade ornaments marked with the names and wishes of 16 children. The ornaments did not last long, as they were quickly grabbed up by the caring staff of the facility. Within days, the individually wrapped gifts began to fill Superintendent Kathy Griffin's office. Next, Santa, Officer Steve Hoyle, was up, up, and away to deliver his bag of goodies. Santa and his Elf, Rod Kitchen, passed out gifts and a bag of candy to each child. Each child was also able to take a picture with Santa to keep for years to come.

Specialized Parole Agents from around the state met at the Correctional Training Institute for training. State Parole is preparing to launch a GPS monitoring program in which the highest risk sex offenders will be tracked at all times. Parole Agents are excited about the new high tech tool as it will be used in a way that will enhance public safety. These specialized Agents are trained to supervise sex offenders released to our communities. This is a difficult and demanding assignment. Please extend your support to these Agents wherever possible.

The IUPUI Criminal Justice Class received a presentation, tour, and lecture about the Indiana State Prison (ISP). ISP Superintendent Wilson was honored to share his experiences in criminal justice with the students.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held Christmas Behind Bars. Offenders received Christmas goodies and were entertained by a church choir.

Christmas gifts were delivered to fourteen Hendricks County Elementary Schools to be distributed to 139 needy children. For the past fourteen years, the facility has requested of the schools the names of children that might not be having a very merry Christmas. Staff at the facility purchase and wrap the requested gifts and with the help of Santa Claus deliveries are made to each individual school. Every Elementary School arranged for as many kids as possible to see Santa, played by George Shepherd, Director of Education and Harvey Pedro, Correctional Officer at Plainfield Correctional Facility. (see photo left)



Five Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents recently completed work on a Victorian three-story dollhouse, complete with a family of dolls, new furniture for each room, a wraparound porch, carpeted rooms and hardwood floors, and donated it to Daystar Childcare Ministry at Englewood Christian Church. The residents are participants in the facility's recreation department, which obtains dollhouse kits and other items to donate to area charities.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Youth Incarcerated as Adult GED graduates took part in the first ever Caps and Gowns Day, celebrating their achievement as they prepare for re-entry. Ivy Tech instructors work with the students. Ivy Tech Chancellor Dr. Ann Valentine said, "We are giving them the opportunity to join us on the streets with some employ-ability skills that they did not have before."

Staff at the Pendleton Correctional Facility collected 178 non-perishable food items which were delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. In conjunction with the facility's traditional "Tree of Warmth" project, PCF staff also donated children's winter clothing items for delivery to the Salvation Army in Anderson, IN.

Staff and students from Camp Summit donated nearly 300 food items to the local the Salvation Army Food Bank in Michigan City. The food will be used to assist needy families in the area this holiday season. Students donated over \$320 from their trust-funds to help purchase food. In addition, staff and students volunteered their time and labor at the food bank for three days.